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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 13 | Humidity 34% Mostly cloudy Sensex 84,233 | Nifty 25,953 | Gold 1,58,569 | Silver 2,61,780 | Dollar 90.74 | Euro 107.77 | GBP 123.84

POTHOLE TRACKER

Bengaluru-based team develops AI system that can detect potholes in real time and help authorities take quicker, data-driven action

PAGE 7

STATE OF PLAY

South Africa scrapes win, heartbreak for Afghanistan in Super Over drama; Australia crush Ireland; England fail to recover from tumble against West Indies

PAGE 9

Recent water quality analysis data by State Pollution Control Board shows levels of bacteria in at least 20 lakes run in five to six digits, while the prescribed standard is not more than 500 MPN/100 ml

MURKY WATERS OF CITY'S LAKES

High organic pollution load is due to untreated sewage entry, say experts

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Many Bengaluru lakes are reeling under alarming pollution, mostly from high levels of Coliform bacteria.

While all the lakes in the city have coliform content higher than the prescribed limits, levels of contamination in some of these water bodies are unbelievably high.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) standards prescribe that water resources classified under Class B (water quality criteria for outdoor bathing) should not have total Coliform organisms more than 500 MPN/100ml.

However, the recent water quality analysis data by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) shows that the levels of bacteria in at least 20 lakes run in five to six digits.

PAGE 6: ARKAVATHI IN TROUBLE

Basavanapura Lake turns dirty as sewage enters the waterbody (file photo from September 2025)

> "Most of the fish kill incidents happen when oxygen in lakes drops to alarmingly low levels. This happens due to high organic pollution load or high levels of faecal and total coliform bacteria
>
> —Lake activist

Lakes in the red

Mahadevapura, Garudacharpalya, Gangashetty, Chikkagubbi, Doddakammanahalli, Byrasandra Upper Lake, Kannur Lake near Hennur Road, Seegehalli, Kammagondanahalli, Hosakerehalli, Rayasandra, Pattandur Agrahara, Ramamana, Rachenahalli, Chelekere, Abbigere, Nagavara, Varthur, Anchepalya, and Madiwala lakes have exceptionally high levels of Coliform

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Scramble to find office space

Prep for elections begins, but 5 city corporations have no space to function out of; as of now govt has only zeroed in on land

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It is heartening to note that major political parties and authorities concerned are busy making preparations to hold the much-delayed elections to five city corporations under the jurisdiction of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). While political parties have begun inviting applications from prospective candidates, the authorities are busy in preparing the final electoral roll.

Elections to the five city corporations under the GBA have to be held before June 30 as per the Supreme Court's direction. However, one crucial aspect the authorities seemed to have forgotten about is that the five city corporations need an office space to function out of. As of now, the government has identified land for constructing structures for the newly formed city corporations.

Bengaluru City Central Corporation may use the existing building to conduct meetings of the newly elected council, but nothing has been done for the remaining four city corporations except identifying the land to construct the buildings.

"Land has been identified at Banashankari to construct buildings for Bengaluru South City Corporation. Bengaluru West City Corporation is expected to have a new building at Attiguppe and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Feel the beat

Vocalist and songwriter Violetta Parisini, known for creating music that speaks across language through vulnerability, lyricism, and depth, will be performing live with her band. **Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; When: February 13 and 14, 9.30 pm**

02 Page-turner

Acclaimed writer and translator Maithreyi Karnoor will be in conversation with Aravind Jayan, for the launch of 'Gooday Nagar', a dazzling collection that reimagines everyday Indian life through humour, strangeness, and quiet philosophical wit. **Where: Beku, JP Nagar; When: Feb 15, 12 pm**

03 Gals just wanna have fun

Atta Galatta is bringing a Galentine's celebration designed exclusively for women, moving beyond the clichés to celebrate stories, secrets, and sisterhood through a daylong lineup of curated fun. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 14, 10 am to 9 pm**

04 Touch of creativity

A Hundred Hands, a handmade movement rooted in livelihood, equity, and craft integrity, with a single-minded focus on handcrafted work alone, is bringing the Festival of Handmade. **Where: NIFT Campus, HSR Layout; When: Until February 15, 11 am to 8 pm**

05 Nature in sync

The Sixth Sense, India's first and largest multidisciplinary immersive festival, conceptualised and developed by Swordfish, the creators of Echoes of Earth festival, brings together art, music, technology, and nature to rekindle connection with the natural world. **Where: Alembic City, Whitefield; When: Until February 22**

Experts call for healthier food choices for kids

Health professionals urge for measures to restrict sugar-loaded, processed foods in children's diet, pointing out that indulgent parenting habits and easy access is contributing to unhealthy eating patterns

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The UAE government has recently banned sugary drinks and high-fat snacks in schools after authorities observed that they were affecting students' performance and behaviour. Schools have begun strict daily checks of snack boxes and are encouraging parents to pack only nutritious, balanced meals. The restricted list includes high-sugar and high-fat foods, unhealthy beverages, fruit syrup juices, processed and additive-containing foods, and certain dairy and soy-based products considered unhealthy. The move aims to improve students' focus, behaviour and overall well-being during school hours.

Experts in Bengaluru say it is high time local schools adopt similar measures to safeguard children's health. While the state government provides nutritious meals to the government school students, many private school students get their meals from home. Although the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2020 had banned the sale of junk food within school premises and a 50-metre radius of the campus, many schools continue to see the easy availability of unhealthy snacks outside their gates.

Paediatricians are also reporting a worrying rise in obesity and Type 2 diabetes among young children, linking it to poor dietary habits and sedentary lifestyles. Health professionals believe stricter enforcement and greater awareness are essential to reverse the trend.

Children's eating habits

Health professionals point out that easy access to sugary foods through online delivery and indulgent parenting habits is contributing to unhealthy eating patterns among children. They note that many parents give in to frequent demands for chocolates, ice creams and processed snacks, increasing the risk of obesity. Doctors say they regularly counsel families to restrict sugar intake and educate children about its harmful effects, warning that early lifestyle habits can lead to serious long-term health issues.

Expert opinion

Dr Ananda R, Consultant-Paediatrics, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Hebbal, said, "It is a good initiative by UAE, in India also we can contemplate this." He explained that simple sugars are essentially simple carbohydrates that require little to no digestion, as they are already processed foods with a high glycaemic index. This means they enter the bloodstream quickly, sending an immediate signal to the brain of a sugar spike. As a result, children often become hyperactive after consuming even a few chocolates—jumping around, restless, and difficult to control.

Dr Jyothi Raghuram, Senior Consultant – General Paediatrics & Paediatric Rheumatology, pointed out that children naturally prefer tasty foods and many parents opt for shortcuts by sending cakes, refined flour products and sugary snacks that keep children temporarily happy, but can harm their health in the long run. Dr Raghuram said that parents must be firm and encourage healthier options. "It is always better to send fruits, preferably those with lower sugar content like berries or avocado and aim for a rainbow plate that includes a variety of fruits and vegetables. Junk food and deep-fried items should be avoided, and home-cooked, nutritious meals are best. If schools are providing meals, they should ensure seasonal fruits are included," said Dr Raghuram.

Meals in schools

A few school authorities pointed out that they keep a regular check on students' meals.

"We do not allow sugary snacks or fizzy drinks at school because we want all students to stay strong and focused in class. Instead of candies, chocolates, chips, and other junk foods, we include ragi and millets in our meals. For snack time, we do not allow canned or ultra-processed junk foods. Only healthy snacks are permitted, like fruits, nuts, and snacks made from wholesome ingredients," said Usha Iyer, Director of The Green School Bangalore, highlighting their belief that good food helps children learn better, feel more energetic, and build healthy habits that last a lifetime.

BMRCL caught in policy tangle over metro costs

Bengaluru Metro commuters may have heaved a sigh of relief after the proposed 5 per cent fare hike was put on hold, but the issue is far from settled. BMRCL now finds itself in an administrative dilemma over whether to implement the fare fixation committee's recommendation for annual automatic revision, constitute a fresh panel to suggest new rates, or simply review the existing proposal. The hike was paused following public outrage and directions from the Centre and the state government. A final call is expected at an upcoming board meeting, which was recently postponed and is likely to be reconvened soon.

Behind the pause lies mounting financial stress. Officials point to rising operational costs, asset replacement, repair of elevated structures, pillars and signalling systems, and expensive spare parts. While BMRCL earns non ticket revenue through rentals, parking, advertisements and station naming rights, it says fare revision is unavoidable to sustain future expansion, land acquisition and loan repayments. Unlike Delhi Metro, whose Rs 1,200 crore annual CISF security cost is borne by the Centre, Bengaluru Metro funds its own security. After posting a Rs 307.67 crore profit in 2023-24, the corporation slipped to a Rs 167.41 crore loss in 2024-25 due to higher financial outgo. With debt at Rs 17,071.1 crore and major repayments due over the next few years, officials warn that without annual revision, net losses could swell sharply by 2029-30, leaving the government to step in with a solution. — BMB

Chinnaswamy Stadium clearance to be discussed today: Minister

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said that a meeting will be held on February 12 to discuss and decide on the possibility of providing clearance to host cricket matches in the city's M Chinnaswamy Stadium. He said that the meeting will discuss and decide based on the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), which manages the stadium, complying with the safety and security requirements. Matches were stopped at the Chinnaswamy stadium after a stampede had occurred outside it during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) IPL victory celebration on June 4 last year, in which 11 people died. The Justice John Michael Cunha's Commission was constituted to probe the incident.

"There is nothing like good news or bad news. We will look into what all they (KSCA) have complied with the Justice Cunha Commission's report. I had constituted a committee to look into compliance headed by GBA Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, which also consisted of the Bengaluru Police Commissioner (Seemanth Kumar Singh). Tomorrow we will discuss it," Parameshwara said, in response to a question whether cricket fans can expect "good news" from the meeting. — BMB

PU preparatory exam shows worrying 54% pass rate

More than 63,000 second PU students from government colleges have failed the first round of preparatory exams conducted by the Department of Pre University Education, with barely half managing to clear the test. Of the 1,38,780 students who appeared across the state, only 75,266 passed, while 63,514 were declared unsuccessful. Data shows 25,499 students failed in one subject, 14,892 in two subjects and 23,123 in three or more subjects. Mysuru recorded the highest number of failures at 5,804, followed by Shivamogga with 3,910, Ballari with 3,798 and Tumakuru with 2,940. Bengaluru North reported 2,561 failures, while Kodagu saw 510 students failing. Officials said special coaching, revision classes and focused guidance will be provided immediately, especially for those who have failed in a single subject, to improve their chances in the final examination. — BMB

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Belahalli residents fume over toxic dump yard burning

Citizens approach National Green Tribunal after civic agencies fail to manage garbage dump, stop waste burning

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Upset and disheartened over the authorities' failure to control illegal open waste burning in and around the Bellahalli dump yard in north Bengaluru, citizens have approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT) seeking relief from air pollution in the area.

In written complaints filed with the tribunal, residents have requested an immediate inspection of the dump yard and the implementation of scientific waste management practices to protect public health and air quality.

Locals say that although complaints about illegal waste burning have been repeatedly made to the concerned authorities over the past few years, no effective solution has been implemented. The problem continues to recur, leaving residents feeling helpless and anxious about the long-term health effects on their families.

"We have taken this route after raising concerns about constant toxic fumes and smoke in the area at both political and organisational levels, including with BSWML. Each time we raise the issue, the authorities resort to temporary measures such as spraying chemicals to suppress the foul smell. We have been living with toxic fumes for more than two years now, and it has begun to affect the health of many residents," said Roshan Abraham, a local resident.

In their complaint, residents stated that the Bellahalli dump yard is improperly managed, leading to the accumulation of solid waste, leachate and frequent open dumping. Moreover, those living nearby have been experiencing a persistent, fuel-like smell, particularly during the evenings and at night.

The continuous foul odour is causing significant discomfort and raising serious concerns about air quality, respiratory health and long-term environmental damage.

They further highlighted that the situation violates the country's environmental laws, including waste management rules, as large quantities of mixed waste continue to be

Complainants demand urgent inspection, scientific waste management and action against recurring fires spreading thick smoke across neighbourhood homes

dumped in the open and left unattended for extended periods, creating an unhealthy environment.

"On most evenings and late nights, we experience a strong fuel- or petroleum-like odour in the air. At times, thick smoke spreads across the area and enters our homes. We frequently wake up to a hazy atmosphere and a foul smell that makes it difficult to breathe," the complaint filed with the NGT stated.

Locals added that several apartment complexes and densely populated residential societies surround the dump yard. Thousands of families live in the area, many with young children, elderly people and individuals with health conditions such as asthma and other respiratory issues. Many residents have reported throat irritation, coughing, burning eyes, headaches and breathing difficulties.

"We have witnessed illegal waste burning on multiple occasions, especially at night. Fires are lit to reduce the volume of garbage, causing thick, toxic smoke to spread across the neighbourhood. As citizens, we are demanding our fundamental right to clean air and a safe environment. The current situation is causing daily stress and affecting our quality of life," said another resident.

Through the complaint, residents have urged the tribunal to stop the illegal burning of waste, identify the source of the toxic, fuel-like smell, and safeguard public health and air quality.

Smoke billows out of a fire at Bellahalli quarry (file photo)

Can Enforcement Directorate probe the dead?

Karnataka HC to decide if money-laundering probe can survive when the main accused is no longer alive

The Karnataka High Court has taken up a significant legal question on whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can continue money-laundering proceedings against the relatives of a person accused of a scheduled offence who has since died. The issue arose in a petition challenging the agency's decision to summon a family member in connection with alleged proceeds of crime linked to the deceased.

The case stems from allegations made in 2017 against a woman accused of cheating and criminal breach of trust in relation to land transactions involving the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). She was accused of securing compensation amounting to several crores of rupees by allegedly using forged documents. However, she died the same year, and the original criminal case was subsequently closed.

Several years later, the ED initiated proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), contending that the alleged offence generated "proceeds of crime" requiring investigation and possible attachment. As part of this process, the agency issued summons to her grandson, stating that assets or funds derived from the alleged illegal activity may have been transferred to family members.

Challenging the summons, the petitioner argued before the High Court that once the primary accused has died and the predicate offence has been closed, the foundation for a money-laundering case no longer survives. His counsel submitted that allowing such proceedings to continue would create a troubling precedent, enabling authorities to reopen matters long after they had legally ended. It was also contended that any amount he had received

KIADB land compensation case resurfaces, as ED seeks attachment of alleged tainted assets

from his grandmother had already been recovered and that he no longer possessed any property linked to the alleged offence.

The ED, on the other hand, maintained that money laundering is a distinct offence and that the death of a person accused in a scheduled offence does not automatically extinguish the agency's power to trace and attach alleged proceeds of crime. The agency argued that if tainted assets had been transferred, the law permits action to recover them irrespective of whether the original accused is alive.

During the hearing, the court reflected on the broader implications of the issue, including whether a criminal allegation can continue to form the basis of enforcement action after the death of the accused. Observing that the matter raises important questions of law, the Bench directed the ED to file its objections and posted the case for further consideration. The outcome of the case is expected to clarify the scope of the ED's powers under the PMLA, particularly in situations where the alleged offender is no longer alive, and could have wider ramifications for similar proceedings across the country.

— BMB

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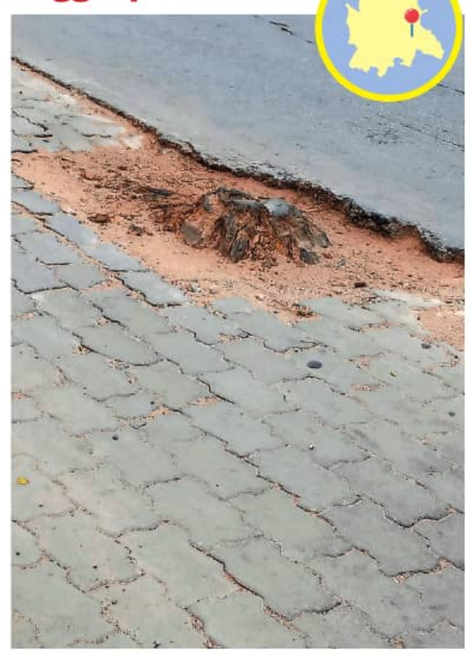
Renewal issue

Majestic Bus Stand

A senior citizen has alleged that he was short-paid ₹1,200 while renewing his BMTC pass at Majestic and was asked to collect the balance the following month. He claimed that the staff refused to record the pending amount and has sought strict action.

Clearance delay

Kaggalipura



Authorities have failed to clear the stump of a tree that was felled a while ago.

Pavement damage

New BEL Road

The damaged footpath on New BEL Road, from the Manyavar or Domino's junction to Ramaiah Signal, has become unsafe for pedestrians, especially senior citizens, and requires urgent repairs.

School bus crashes into 2-wheeler, killing two children

Two young girls lost their lives on Wednesday following alleged negligence by a private school bus driver at Central Revenue Layout near Thanisandra.

The victims have been identified as Varsha (2), daughter of Naganagouda Mali Patil, a constable in the City Armed Reserve (CAR), and Bhanu (4), his niece. Both children died after a school bus collided with a two-wheeler they were riding on.

Naganagouda, who resides with his family at the Hegde Nagar Police Quarters, was taking Varsha and Bhanu on his scooter to a nearby shop to buy milk when the accident occurred.

According to police, the incident took place at a turn on Thanisandra Main Road. On noticing the school bus approaching, Naganagouda reportedly stopped his two-wheeler. However, as the bus driver attempted to take a right turn from the main road into a cross street, the vehicle rammed into the scooter. Despite the collision, the driver allegedly did not stop the bus.

Due to the impact, both children lost balance and fell off the scooter. The rear wheel of the bus then ran over them.

After collision, driver allegedly failed to stop the vehicle

Local residents rushed the critically injured children to a nearby hospital. However, they succumbed to their injuries shortly after. Post-mortem examinations were conducted at Yelahanka Government Hospital, and the bodies were later handed over to the family.

The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed near the accident site.

The Hennur Traffic Police have arrested the bus driver, identified as Mareppa, and seized the vehicle. A case has been registered.

Driver's negligence alleged

The bus belongs to a private school in Thanisandra and was on its way to pick up students when the accident occurred.

Police officials stated that the driver failed to stop the bus even after hitting the scooter and that his negligence led to the tragedy.

In his statement, Mareppa claimed that he was looking to the left while turning right from Thanisandra Main Road into the cross street and did not notice the two-wheeler on his right. Police confirmed that he underwent a medical examination and was not under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. **–BMB**

Accessibility concerns fuel lift demand at metro station

Activist highlights lack of lift or escalator at Dr BR Ambedkar Metro Station exit causing hardship to commuters, especially senior citizens and those with disabilities

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Rights activist T Narasimha Murthy has urged the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to install an escalator or lift at the High Court exit of Dr BR Ambedkar Metro Station, citing difficulties faced by commuters.

Murthy pointed out that passengers currently have to climb 71 steps to access the High Court side exit. He said the lack of an escalator or lift has caused significant hardship, particularly for elderly commuters, persons with disabilities, and litigants who frequent the nearby court complex.

"Currently, commuters climb 71 steps, causing hardship to the elderly, differently-abled and daily court visitors. Space for an escalator exists but remains unused," he said. The station, located near key government offices including the High Court and Vidhana Soudha, witnesses heavy footfall on working days. Lawyers, court staff, petitioners and members of the public regularly use the exit to access the court premises.

Murthy warned that protests would be launched if BMRCL fails to act on the demand. He urged the metro authority to ensure accessibility and convenience for all sections of commuters, especially those with mobility challenges. BMRCL has not yet issued a response to the demand.

Another commuter Shankar, raised a similar issue at the BGS Hosahalli Metro Station, where commuters reportedly have to climb more than 60 steps at the entry and exit points. He noted that although there is provision and space earmarked for elevators at both entrances and exits, the facilities have not been installed.

Similar concerns have been raised earlier over skywalks near other metro stations in city (File photo)

Urban mobility experts say the concerns raised are not isolated, but indicative of the need for stronger focus on inclusive design in expanding metro systems.

An urban transport consultant familiar with metro infrastructure projects said that vertical mobility systems such as lifts and escalators must be treated as essential components of station planning, not optional add-ons. "When stations are built without fully operational elevators or escalators at all exits, it restricts access for a section of commuters. Accessibility cannot depend on physical stamina," the expert said. He noted that as Bengaluru's metro network grows, the volume of passengers will increase substantially, making dependable escalators and elevators critical.

Accessibility advocates also emphasised that public transport systems must comply not only with engineering standards but with principles of equity. "A modern metro must serve all — seniors, wheelchair users, people carrying children or heavy files. If basic facilities are missing despite available space, it raises questions about planning priorities," said a disability rights campaigner.

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Shooting victim's body will be brought back in 3-4 days

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara visited the residence of Chandan Kumar in Thyamagondlu village, Nelamangala taluk, to offer condolences following the techie's fatal shooting in Canada. The minister met the grieving parents and assured them of the state government's full support, stating that efforts are underway to bring the body back to Karnataka within the next three to four days.

Describing the visit as deeply distressing, Parameshwara said Chandan Kumar, a project manager at a software company in Toronto, was the only son of retired teacher couple Nandan Kumar and his wife. He expressed anguish at witnessing the parents' grief and prayed for strength for the family to endure the tragedy.

Speaking to reporters, the Home Minister confirmed that authorities in Canada are investigating the murder. "We have not yet received information about the motive behind the killing. An investigation is underway there. Our High Commissioner to Canada is in discussions to repatriate the body," he said.

Parameshwara also urged the Canadian government, through India's Ministry of External Affairs, to conduct a thorough probe and ensure justice is served. He reassured Kannadigas living in Canada that the Karnataka government remains committed to their safety and welfare. According to Toronto Police, Chandan Kumar was shot in the parking lot of Woodbine Shopping Centre in the Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27 area. He was found with gunshot wounds and rushed to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

— ANI

Arkavathi water quality slips again to worst Class E

KSPCB report flags Kanakapura stretch as highly polluted, with fecal coliform and toxic contaminants exceeding CPCB limits across monitored locations

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The latest pollution data reveals severe bacterial contamination at Kanakapura and TG Halli, with untreated sewage and toxic pollutants threatening public health, aquatic ecosystems, and the success of proposed rejuvenation efforts

The water quality of the Arkavathi River has yet again slipped into the Class E category, the worst category of water quality defined by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) water quality report for January, covering 12 rivers across Karnataka, indicates that the Arkavathi remains the most polluted river in the state.

Under the Union government's National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP), water quality in 12 rivers is monitored at 36 locations across Karnataka. These rivers include Arkavathi, Lakshmantirtha, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Cauvery, Kabini, Kagina, Krishna, Shimsha, Bhima, Netravati and Tunga. Of these, the Arkavathi stretch at Kanakapura town is the only one classified under Class E. At the Tippagondanahalli (TG Halli) Reservoir, the water quality is slightly better but still falls under Class D.

Both Arkavathi monitoring stations recorded faecal and total coliform levels far above permissible limits. The total coliform count at the Kanakapura town station was 1,700 MPN per 100 ml, while near the TG Halli Reservoir it stood at 3,500 MPN per 100 ml. As per CPCB standards, the permissible level of faecal coliform bacteria in water bodies suitable for bathing, contact water sports and commercial fisheries is 100 MPN per 100 ml. For water bodies fit only for industrial cooling, navigation and controlled waste disposal, the limit is 500 MPN per 100 ml. The report further shows that apart from the TG Halli stretch under Class E, four of the 36 monitoring stations recorded water quality under Class D, 30 stretches fell under Class C and one under Class B.

Environmentalists attribute the deterioration to untreated sewage and industrial effluents flowing into the river. "Arkavathi has been receiving untreated sewage and industrial effluent, leading to high pollution levels. While KSPCB's report highlights high organic pollution, the river also carries a significant load of inorganic pollutants, including heavy metals. The recently announced Arkavathi rejuvenation project will hopefully restore the river," said a city-based environmentalist.

A recent analysis by a Bengaluru-based NGO at three locations upstream and downstream of the TG Halli Reservoir and at Dodda Mudavadi bridge found high levels of heavy metals and toxic substances, including mercury, the banned pesticide DDT, cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and fluoride, particularly near the reservoir.

Yettinahole faces severe water shortfall

The Yettinahole drinking water project, targeted for completion by 2027, faces growing scrutiny over whether sufficient water exists to justify its scale and escalating cost. Designed to divert 24.01 TMC of floodwater from the Western Ghats to seven districts, official data from 2018–2023 shows availability ranging between 16 and 21 TMC, plunging to 8.41 TMC in 2023. Inflows have never met projections.

Experts warn that construction has reduced Kemphole river storage capacity, deepening sustainability concerns. Though the scheme promises water to 38 towns, 6,657 villages and 527 lakes, scientific studies estimate availability below 8 TMC. With costs rising to ₹24,000 crore and farmer protests continuing, critics demand transparent hydrological reassessment before further financial commitments. — BMB

Pending salaries: Contractors to launch protest

The Karnataka Contractors' Association has announced a statewide strike demanding the immediate release of nearly ₹37,000 crore in pending payments for works executed between 2022-23 and 2025-26. The association alleges that despite repeated representations to the Chief Minister, ministers and senior officials, the dues remain unpaid. Office bearers claim meetings scheduled over the past two years were either not held or repeatedly postponed.

On January 29, 2026, the association convened a press meet urging the government to clear all bills in a single tranche and sought a dedicated allocation in the 2026-27 Budget. Escalating the agitation, a protest has been planned at Freedom Park on March 5.

Contractors statewide have been asked to halt ongoing works, warning prolonged delays could disrupt infrastructure projects and severely affect workers' livelihoods. — BMB

Five-month salary delay hits GBA outsourced health staff

Junior Health Inspectors and Data Entry Operators blame administrative transition to Greater Bengaluru Authority for prolonged wage delays across five city corporations

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An anonymous health inspector alleged internal corruption within city corporations contributed to prolonged payment delays and administrative bottlenecks

Hundreds of Junior Health Inspectors (JHIs) and Data Entry Operators working with five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have been facing a lot of problems due to salary delays. They attribute the transition of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) with five city corporations to the delay in salaries.

All of them are engaged on an outsourced basis and have been waiting for their salaries for the last five months. Their plight prompted former Leader of the Ruling Party in the then BBMP Council, NR Ramesh, to write to the GBA Chief Commissioner on January 21, urging immediate steps to ensure speedy disbursal of wages to the Junior Health Inspectors and Data Entry Operators.

"Please convene a meeting of the five Commissioners and the management of outsourcing agencies to ensure disbursal of wages to the Junior Health Inspectors and Data Entry Operators. Their families have been facing a lot of problems due to non-payment of wages for the last five months," the letter stated.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Ramesh said the employees, being outsourced through private agencies, are not in a position to demand timely payment of wages. "I am happy that the GBA Chief Commissioner has written to all Commissioners to make arrangements for payment of wages to the Junior Health Inspectors and Data Entry Operators," he said.

A Junior Health Inspector, requesting anonymity, said that arrangements were recently made to release one month's salary. "I have been appealing to both the agency and the authorities to clear the pending dues at the earliest, as it has become difficult for my family to make ends meet. I have also heard that corruption among some City Corporation officials is responsible for the delay," he alleged. Meanwhile, Vinod, manager of a private agency that has outsourced JHIs to the Bengaluru South and West City Corporations, said the process of clearing arrears has begun. "The JHIs will receive their arrears within a week," he said.

GBA chief orders prep for monsoon

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to urgently identify and remove hazardous trees across city limits, especially those blocking traffic signals, leaning over roads, obstructing streetlights, or posing risks to pedestrians. Forest teams have been asked to clear fallen trunks and footpath debris immediately. Rao stressed swift approval of road-cutting permissions and high-quality restoration of dug-up stretches. He called for expediting pedestrian skywalk projects and relocating pending bus stops to ease congestion. With monsoon nearing, officials must fix waterlogging hotspots, improve stormwater drainage along Outer Ring Road flyovers, resume towing drives, prevent sewage inflow into K-100 drains, and speed up white-topping works. — BMB

Hotels mull charges for lingering customers

Lingering over a single cup of coffee at city cafés may soon come at a price. The Bengaluru Hotels Association is considering introducing a "table charge" for customers who occupy tables for long periods after placing minimal orders. Hoteliers say many patrons now use restaurants as informal offices or meeting venues for business talks, wedding discussions and political conversations, limiting seat availability for genuine diners and slowing business turnover.

To address the issue, the association is exploring a model similar to parking fees, allowing customers to sit free for a fixed duration before a charge is applied. A proposal to levy between 500 and 1,000 is under discussion, pending government approval and consultation. **BMB**

3-hr deadline to remove objectionable posts

In a strong move to curb misuse of artificial intelligence, the Centre has amended the IT Rules, 2021, mandating social media platforms remove unlawful content within three hours of being flagged by a court or authorised agency.

The new rule, notified by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, will take effect from February 20, reducing the earlier 36 hour compliance window. Sources said platforms must deploy automated systems to detect and curb illegal content, including defamation, financial fraud, sexual exploitation, child abuse material and fake documents.

Non consensual sexually explicit AI content will be treated as a criminal offence, amid incidents involving celebrities and private individuals targeted through deepfake videos. **BMB**

AI-powered solution targets city's growing pothole crisis

Real-time computer vision detects, maps, and logs potholes, helping authorities prioritise repairs and prevent accidents across urban road networks

Iffath.Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Potholes are more than a minor inconvenience. Damaged and cratered roads not only harm vehicles but have also led to accidents, injuries and even fatalities in Bengaluru, severely disrupting daily life.

With mounting frustration over poor road conditions, a Bengaluru-based team has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) system capable of detecting potholes in real time and enabling faster, data-driven intervention by authorities.

The system has been developed by Virendra Suryawanshi and his team at Anomaly. Using computer vision and AI, it identifies potholes while moving through regular traffic. The concept, according to Virendra, is straightforward: when cities have precise data on pothole locations and severity, repairs can be prioritised and executed more efficiently.

"Roads are a strong indicator of economic health. Poor roads affect safety and productivity. Potholes are life-threatening hazards, which is why we decided to act and equip authorities with technology to address them," said Virendra, who conceptualised the system and is now working to scale it.

How the system works

The team built the model using YOLO, a high-speed, real-time object detection framework widely used in computer vision applications. It has been trained on a dataset of nearly 47,000 pothole images collected from diverse road conditions.

The AI processes each frame instantly, detects potholes and outlines their exact dimensions. Because detection happens in real time, potholes can be counted, logged and mapped without manual inspection.

"The system can function while travelling on city roads. It instantly detects and records potholes, enabling large-scale monitoring without extensive manpower," Virendra explained.

To showcase its effectiveness, the team has shared demonstration videos on platforms such as X and LinkedIn, collaborating with Caleb Friesen to display the model's real-world performance.

One significant challenge in building reliable pothole detection technology is the lack of extensive and varied datasets. Road surfaces differ across cities due to lighting variations, weather conditions, construction materials and traffic intensity.

Contributions have already come from cities including Bengaluru, Delhi, Aizawl, Jaipur, Pune, Mumbai, Bhopal, Yavatmal and Gurugram. The expanding dataset is expected to enhance detection accuracy, reduce false positives and ensure reliability across varied terrains and climates.

Working with authorities

The team remains open to collaborating with civic agencies. Virendra said the technology could help officials maintain live pothole maps, assess severity, prioritise repairs and verify completion of maintenance work. Instead of relying solely on citizen complaints, municipalities could shift toward proactive, technology-driven road management. Currently, the project focuses on two core objectives: building India's largest pothole dataset and deploying a real-time mapping system that enables faster, smarter road repairs.

To showcase its effectiveness, the team has shared demonstration videos on platforms such as X and LinkedIn, collaborating with Caleb Friesen to display the model's real-world performance

Ban on aggressive dog breeds, licence for pet owners soon

The Greater Bengaluru Authority is preparing to tighten pet ownership norms, proposing a mandatory licensing system and possible restrictions on aggressive breeds. A recent animal husbandry department survey recorded around 1.15 lakh pet dogs in the city. Under the proposed framework, owners must obtain an annual licence, pay a prescribed fee and renew it each year. Certain aggressive breeds may be barred, particularly in apartment complexes.

Officials said the draft rules include compulsory rabies vaccination certified by a registered veterinarian, mandatory sterilisation for dogs above 12 months and microchipping at the owner's expense.Violations may attract fines, including ₹1,000 if a seized dog is reclaimed within 72 hours and ₹200 per day thereafter. Unclaimed dogs could be handed to welfare groups. However, concerns persist that strict licensing and steep penalties may burden lower income families and increase pet abandonment cases. **BMB**

BREEDS IN RADAR
German Shepherd, Rottweiler, Doberman, some hounds

FINES
₹1,000 if a seized dog is reclaimed within 72 hours and ₹200 per day thereafter

SOCIALTATTLE

WHAT'S TWEETING

For more than two months, the main road opposite #SparshHospital remains in disrepair. Daily commuters face ongoing struggles with no timeline for work," shared a social media user highlighting Bengaluru's infrastructure woes.

Sudhindra Rao Kulkarni @Sudhi... · 8h
Autos occupying the bus stop at Silk Institute metro station causing inconvenience to commuters and also causing traffic jams on this busy road. @tgpuratraffic kindly clear n pls ensure smooth movement. Location : Silk Institute Metro station, Kanakapura Road BLR. @BMTC_BENGALURU

THAT WENT VIRAL

Asif Ahmed @AsifAsid · 8h
Replying to @HennurBlr @ChristinMP_ and @GBAChiefComm
From more More than 2 months the main road of #Hennur opposite #SparshHospital remains in this pathetic state. With no clarity of the timeline of works, daily commuters sufferings continue.
5
24
738

A platform x user praised #Bengaluru's KG Road for its walkable footpaths, cycling lane, flowering trees, and night lighting, enhancing pedestrian comfort while offering a quiet retreat from traffic noise.

Anil Budur Lulla @anil_lulla · 7h
The busy KG Road in Bengaluru has several kilometres of walkable footpaths along with a little-used cycling path. The flowering trees on the side increases walkable quality & shields pedestrians against vehicular noise, and bright lights at night. 📍 Police Corner-Cauvery Bhavan.
ನಮ್ಮ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು Namma Bengaluru and 7 others

Autos blocking the bus stop at #SilkInstituteMetro are causing traffic jams and commuter inconvenience, a social media user requested @tgpuratraffic to clear the area for smooth traffic flow on Kanakapura Road.

No change though NGT took up matter 2 years ago

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bacteria, with the level of Coliform bacteria reaching as high as 4,60,000 MPN/100 ml in Hosakerehalli Lake.

The high organic pollution load, mainly due to untreated sewage entry, is also leading to low oxygen levels in many of these water bodies, posing a danger to aquatic life.

"Most of the fish kill incidents happen when oxygen in lakes drops to alarmingly low levels. This happens due to high organic pollution load or high levels of faecal and total coliform bacteria. The microorganisms decomposing this organic matter can lead to fish kills due to suffocation. While nutrient loading is yet another cause, Bengaluru lakes are suffering mainly due to the authorities' lack of ability to arrest the entry of untreated sewage," said a city-based expert.

Notably, the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had taken a suo motu case on the appalling state of Bengaluru's lakes in 2024. The tribunal took up the matter based on an article published in **Bangalore Mirror**, which highlighted that between 2017 and 2023, the city witnessed 61 fish kill incidents across multiple lakes. The analysis was conducted by a city-based NGO.

The green court had then noted that the existing pollution levels violate provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Solid Waste Management Guidelines, 2016, and provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Based on the report, Notices have been issued to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Department of Fisheries of Animal Husbandry Department, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Bengaluru.

"The situation remains more or less the same despite two years having passed by since the NGT took up the matter. This goes on to show officials' apathy towards the state of water bodies in the city," added the expert.

3 months for tender, 2 years to construct buildings?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

North City Corporation at Byatarayanapura and East City Corporation at Mahadevapura but the land at these locations is yet to be transferred to the Greater Bengaluru Authority by the revenue department. Tender process to select the bidders will commence only after the revenue department transfers the land to the GBA.

The tender process will take three months to get completed, and a minimum of two years is needed to complete the construction of the buildings to accommodate the newly elected Councils and employees," said former corporator and ex-president of Bengaluru South District BJP president NR Ramesh.

In a letter dated February 11 to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ramesh said that each City Corporation needs a vast meeting hall, ante chamber for the elected mayor, and chambers for the staffs, ante chamber for deputy mayor, offices for Leader of Opposition and Ruling Party, offices for chairmen of standing committees. "Each City Corporation needs a hall for holding meetings with officials and also addressing pressers by the Commissioner. I came to know about the proposal to rent community halls for holding council meetings. As per the norms, the council hall should be in a triangular shape, and it will be tough to rent community halls with similar features," the letter read.

He also stated that newly constituted City Corporations need more employees as against the existing 2,818 employees. "The government has to take measures to recruit 6,350 officers and employees for the five city corporations. As of now, the GBA is spending Rs 98 crore per month towards salaries of employees and around Rs 1,200 crore per year for this purpose. Now, the GBA has to spend Rs 250 crore per month and around Rs 3,000 crore per year. How will the GBA garner or earn Rs 1,800 crore per year to pay salaries?" the letter asks.

A Amruth Raj, president of Greater Bengaluru Authority Officers' Association said the government has to take measures to recruit employees for five city corporations. "On an average, 10 to 15 employees are being retired from service per month," he said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAROJA JAYAKUMAR , Residing at No. 2B 14, Isha Misty Green Appartment, Inner Circle Road, Near Water Tank, Channasandra, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560067 have changed my name to SAROJA JAYKUMAR vide affidavit dated 11/02/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Rajkumar.R R/o Kudlu, Bengaluru has changed my daughter's name from Samvrutha Rajkumar to Samvrutha.R in school records

I, SALEEM ANSARI SHAHUL HAMEED (Old Name) S/o Shahul Hameed resident of No.3, Dasanapura Hobli, Magadi Main Road, Machohalli, Lakshmipura Post, BANGALORE-562162 have changed my name to SALEEM ANSARI (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 5/2/2026 Before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

I Priyanka Yadav H D/o late Mr. Hukum Singh Yadav residing at: No.10, House No. 5, 21st B Cross, M Pillappa Garden, Opp Sri Rama Temple, Ejipura Main Road, Vivek nagar post Bangalore 560047, I have changed my name to a new name Priyanka Yadav for all purpose. Affidavit dated 07/02/2026

I, Hemanth Kumar K S/o Kodanda Rama V R/o No 14 3rd Cross 4th Main Road Abbayappa Layout Ns Palya Btm 2nd Stage Bangalore 560076 have changed my minor son's name from Kishan H to Kishan Ram H, vide Affidavit dt. 05/01/2026

I, Mohammed Shiraz Khaleel, R/O No 741, 10th cross, 2nd Main, B Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Subash Nagara Begur, Bangalore - 560068 have changed my daughter's name (minor) from Riza Shiraz to Riza Huda Shiraz.

I, SANGHVI KARAN RAMESH KUMAR #22-23, F, No.201, Arihant Apt., Subramanya Temple Rd, V V Puram, B'lore-04. have changed to KARAN BAFNA Vide aff Dt.05/02/2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

I, NUPUR MEHTA, D/o Mehta Dipen Navin, R No. 68/15, Vitrag Krishna Block, opposite to Indian Bank, Sheshadri puram, Bangalore-560020, have changed my name to NUPUR DIPEN MEHTA, vide affidavit dt: 11-02-2026 before notary Natesh D, Bangalore.

I, SNEHA SALDANA, W/o Kalpith Narayan, R/o No.13, Matha kuteera, 14th Cross, Havanoor Extension, Bagalagunte, Nagasandra, Bengaluru – 560073, have changed my name from SNEHA SALDANA to SNEHA GOWDA, vide affidavit dated 10.02.2026 at Bengaluru for all purposes.

I, Noorsaba Sayeed W/O Yusuf Sharif I # 26 2nd Cross KG Halli Blr-45 have changed my name to Noor Saba Sayeed for all purposes

I Malarvizhi R/o 225 6th Cross New 4th Main 2nd Main Prakash Nagar Bengaluru-560021 Have changed My Name to Jayaraman Malarvizhi for all the purpose.

I, Dhruva Dasari S/O, Ravi Kumar Dasari R/o #440 6th Cross 7th Block Jayanagar Bangaluru.560070 have changed my name to Dhruva Ravikumar Dasari for all purposes.

I Aditya, son of Ishwar Singh #57/9, 5th main, 3rd cross, Gangotri layout, kattigenahalli, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Aditya Samdiwal for all purposes

I, DIMPLE KUMARI JAIN, #22-23, F.N.201, Arihant Apt., Subramanya Temple Rd, V V Puram, B'lore-04. have changed to SMITHA BAFNA Vide aff Dt.05/02/2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

I, DAKSH K SANGHVI #22-23, F.N.201, Arihant Apt., Subramanya Temple Rd, V V Puram, B'lore-04. have changed to DAKSH BAFNA Vide aff Dt.05/02/2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

I, Satish Ramji Patel, s/o Ramji Patel, R/o No-6, 23rd Cross, 11th Main Road, Lal Bahadur Shastrinagar, Dwarka layout, Kembatahalli, Gottigere, Bengaluru-560083, have changed my name to Satish Patel for all Purposes.

I, SOUMYA J, D/o Vijay Kumar, R/at #8, 15th 'I' Cross, JP Park back gate, Muthyalam managar, MSRIT Post, Bengaluru- 560054, have changed my name to SANCHITA, vide affidavit dt: 05.02.2026 before notary Meer Hassan, B.lore

I, ARBINA AJAZ PASHA resident at No. A-409 On A Block, Fourth Floor, "SKY HEIGHT, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore - 560045. I do hereby declare that I have changed my name from ARBINA RAHAMATHULLA to ARBINA AJAZ PASHA henceforth I shall be known and called as ARBINA AJAZ PASHA. for all purposes, vide Affidavit Dtd: 10.02.2026 sworn to before notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru.

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South Africa's Ngidi sums up slim win against Afghanistan in Super Over drama

'NEVER BEEN THIS STRESSED IN MY LIFE IN A GAME'

1. South Africa's Dewald Brevis, Keshav Maharaj and teammates celebrate after their team's win; **2.** Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan and teammates after the match at Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday

South Africa survived Kagiso Rabada's final-over meltdown against Afghanistan and then a double Super Over drama before prevailing in a heart-stopping Group D match of the Twenty20 World Cup on Wednesday.

In a remarkable match of fluctuating fortunes, South Africa appeared to be in the box seat after half-centuries from Ryan Rickelton (61) and Quinton de Kock (59) powered them to a commanding 187-6. Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz smashed 84 off 42 balls in Afghanistan's spirited reply before they were all out for 187 with two deliveries left in their innings.

Afghanistan milked 17 runs from the first Super Over sent down by South African pace bowler Lungi Ngidi.

This time South Africa tied the score with Tristan Stubbs hitting the final delivery from Azmatullah Omarzai for a six.

South Africa
187/6 & 23/0

Afghanistan
187 & 19/9

SA win Super Over by 4 runs

In the second Super Over, Afghanistan scored 19 before losing both the wickets in reply to South Africa's 23.

"I've lost so much weight today. Never been that stressed in my life in a cricket game," player of the match Ngidi said afterwards.

New Zealand and South Africa remain on course to advance to Super Eight from this group after winning two in two. Afghanistan, having lost to both of them, are staring at elimination from the tournament.

On a day of relentless drama, South Africa appeared to be in control as the match headed into its 40th over with Afghanistan needing 13 runs with just one wicket in hand. Rabada buckled under pressure and bowled two no-balls and a wide before managing to run out Fazalhaq Farooqi with the scores level.

There was no dearth of drama even in the second Super Over.

Chasing 24 for victory, Afghanistan lost Mohammad Nabi to the second ball without a run being scored.

Gurbaz walked in and smacked spinner Keshav Maharaj for three sixes in a row to inject fresh excitement into a contest, which already had the crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium on the edge of their seats.

The fourth sixth did not materialise though and Gurbaz was caught at point in a poignant end to their lion-hearted display in a must-win contest.

"So so unlucky to end on the losing side," Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan said. "We gave everything on the ground but we did not get the right result.

"We had our opportunity, even in the last Super over as well.

"But I think there are a lot of things to learn from here, and we'll only get better." **–Reuters**

Today's match

Sri Lanka	V/S	Oman
11.00 am		
Nepal	V/S	Italy
03.00 pm		
India	V/S	Namibia
07.00 pm		

Australia off to bombastic start

Pakistan captain Salman Agha praised his team's disciplined bowling display and moments of composure under pressure after his side defeated the Netherlands by three wickets in a thrilling opening match at the T20 World Cup on Saturday.

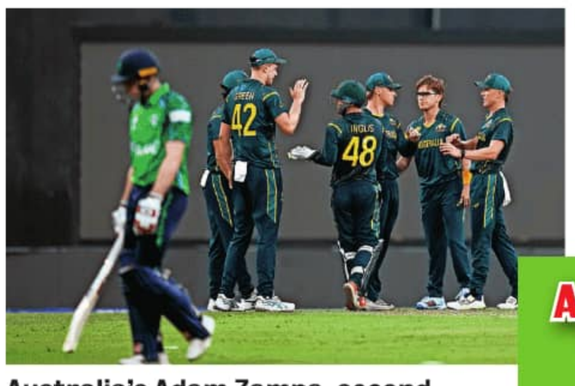
DAustralia registered a commanding victory over Ireland in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash, winning by 67 runs after restricting the visitors to just 115 runs.

Backed by a disciplined bowling performance and crucial contributions with the bat, the Aussies dominated the contest from start to finish, marking a strong start to their campaign.

Chasing 183, Ireland captain Paul Stirling retired out for just one run after he potentially pulled a hamstring. During the last ball of the second over, Harry Tector departed for a three-ball duck.

Opener Ross Adair departed after scoring 12 runs after speedster Nathan Ellis dismissed him during the third over. Australia were off to a fantastic start as Ireland slumped to 13/2.

Ireland lost three quick wickets after Curtis Campher (4), Benjamin Calitz (2) and Gareth Delany (11) as Ireland crumbled to 43/5 after the end of the seventh over.



Australia's Adam Zampa, second right, celebrates with teammates the wicket of Ireland's Lorcan Tucker

Australia
182/6
(20)

Ireland
115
(16.5)

Lorcan Tucker and George Dockrell stitched a crucial 46-run stand before Adam Zampa removed Tucker for 24 runs during the 14th over.

Australia cleaned up the tail as they won the contest by 67 runs, marking their first win in the T20 World Cup.

For Australia, Nathan Ellis (4/12) and Adam Zampa (4/23) scalped four wickets each. Matthew Kuhnemann (1/29) were also among the wicket-takers.

Earlier, Marcus Stoinis's resilient innings, with vital contributions from Josh Inglis and Matt Renshaw, powered Australia to 182/6.

Stoinis was the top scorer for his side with 45 off 29 balls, while Inglis and Renshaw made a decent 37 each.

Aussies won the toss and opted to bat. Head and Josh Inglis opened the innings for Australia. Head got run out in the second over at the score of six runs after hitting a boundary in the first over, where he was also dropped at point by Calitz on the fifth ball.

Inglis and Cameron Green picked up the pace, with both hammering the Irish bowlers all over the park. Stoinis was the highest run scorer from the Australian side, scoring 45 runs of 29 balls, including two fours and a six. **–ANI**

England so near, yet so far; Windies have the last say

Spinners reigned supreme as West Indies beat England by 30 runs in their T20 World Cup match at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Spinners Gudakesh Motie and Roston Chase took three and two wickets respectively as West Indies bowled England out for 166 in 19 overs, after setting a target of 197.

Sam Curran top-scored for England with 43 not out while Jacob Bethell and Phil Salt chipped in with 33 and 30 respectively.

Rutherford shines

Sherfane Rutherford blazed to his fifty off 29 balls and shared two half-century partnerships as he helped West Indies recover from early jolts to post a challenging 196/6 in 20 overs against England in Match 15 of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

West Indies
196/6
(20)

England
166
(19)

In the clash between two-time champions, West Indies had slumped to 8/2 in the second over and were

West Indies' Roston Chase and Brandon King celebrate after the dismissal of England's Jos Buttler

77/4 at the halfway stage before Rutherford smashed an unbeaten 76 off 42 balls (2x4, 7x6) and with help from Chase (34) and Holder (33) helped them set a challenging target for England, whom they had defeated in the final of the 2016 edition in Chennai.

On a pitch with a bit of green tinge and on which the ball was gripping, England made a good start after skipper Harry Brook elected to field first as both Jofra Archer and Sam Curran struck in their first over. Archer, who bowled three wides in a wayward first over, found his range on the fifth delivery to have West Indies skipper Shai Hope (0 off 3) drilling straight into Tom Banton's hands a short widish delivery for a soft dismissal.

Curran got Brandon King off his first delivery of the match, as the batter lashed at a short widish one and was caught by a diving Phil Salt near the fence at deep point. West Indies were reduced to 8/2 in the second over.

Roston Chase (34), brought into the match in place of Matthew Forde, and Shimron Hetmyer (23) provided the West Indies some relief with a 47-run partnership for the third wicket. Hetmyer struck Curran a four and six off successive balls while Chase hammered a hat-trick of fours off Will Jacks in the fifth over as the West Indies batters did not slacken on the scoring rate.

–Agencies

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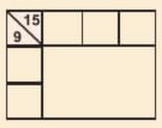
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

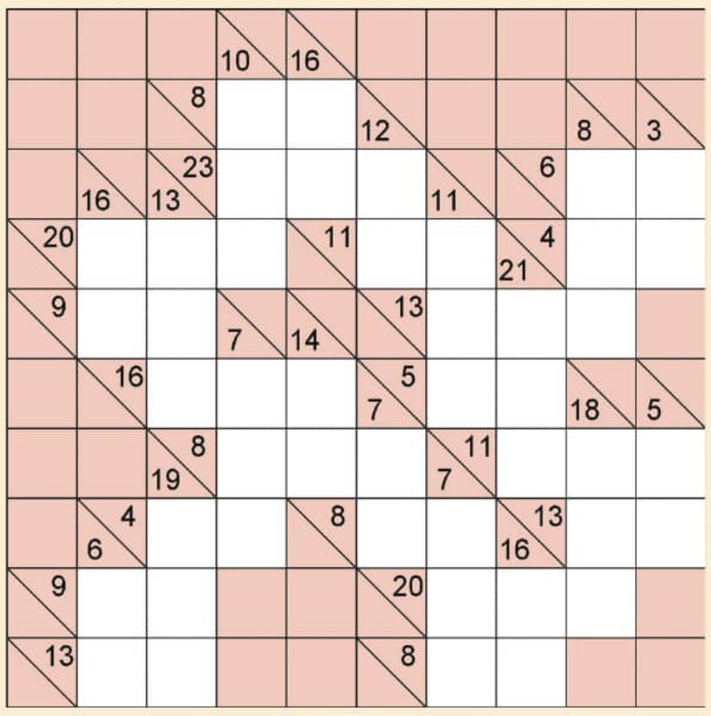
$\sqrt[4]{[(216)^2/3 + (81)^2/4 + (32)^4/5 + 2]} = ?$

Kakuro

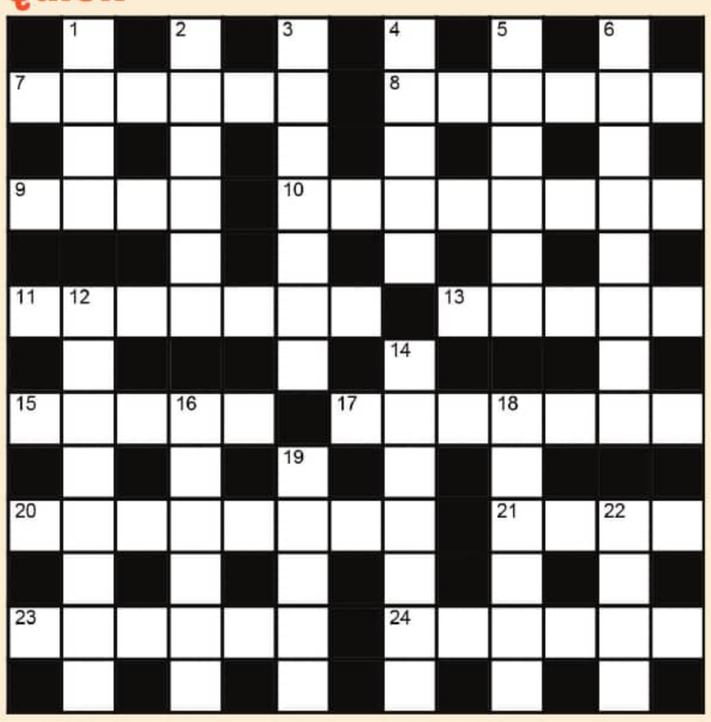
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Relating to milk (6)
8 Mourn (6)
9 Active one (4)
10 Theme park located on the Place Grounds (3,5)
11 In a succinct or concise manner? (7)
13 Entrails, etc (5)
15 ___ in the back: betrays (5)
17 Let or allowed to fall (7)
20 Incidentally (2,3,3)
21 Hindu meditation system (4)
23 Eases, in a way? (4,2)
24 Irritate (6)

DOWN

1 Ring of light (4)
2 Gazes fixedly (6)
3 Confused struggle (7)
4 Representative (5)
5 Hint; covert advice (3,3)
6 Assess (8)
12 It has to be paid as a form of gate money? (5,3)
14 Swiss cheese (7)
16 Earnest request (6)
18 Yielding as a return (6)
19 Switches or barters (5)
22 Au for the chemist (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS T

MWXOTRK GB VGSK CVHBB, OZK QXGCZOKX OZK CVGOOKX, OZK IWXK KHBGVU QXWSKR.

Linemaro

You must be a banana because I find you a-peeling

Mindchow

Everything in the universe is within you. Ask all from yourself

Joke of the day

The only difference between a hairstylist and a regular barber is the price

Loop

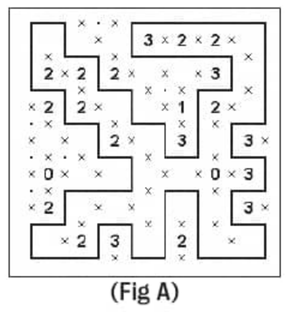
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

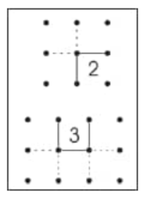
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

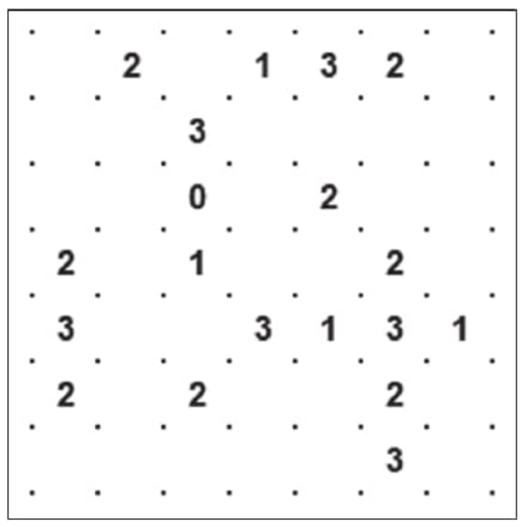
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



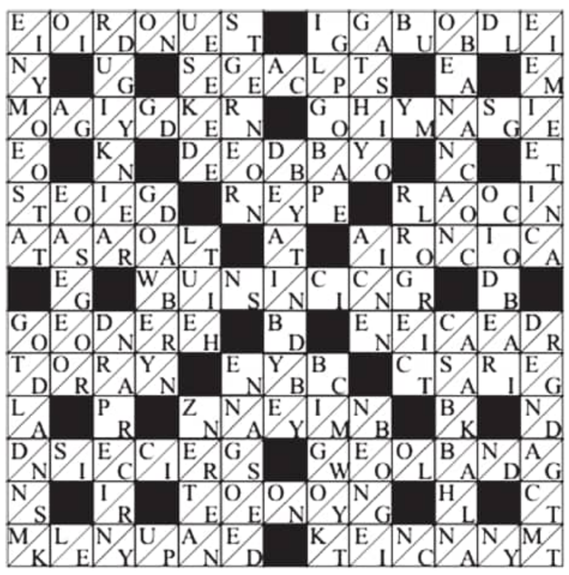
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				W
9				

ACROSS

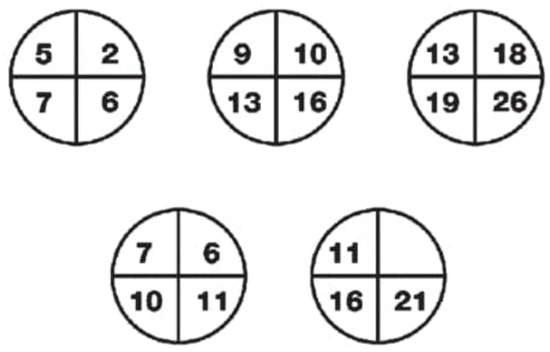
1 Draws; 6 He ROM; 7 Via so; 8 Newer; 9 KN won

DOWN

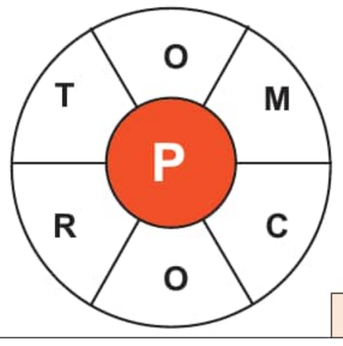
1 Harks; 2 We Nov; 3 Naomi; 4 Sewer; 5 Own Dr

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the empty segment?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7			1				8
8		3	5				6	
2						9		3
6			1				7	
			7		9			
	2				8			9
4		7						5
	6				5	7		4
1				4			2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16

2 3 3 8

Medium = 40

2 3 6 8

Hard = 12

2 2 6 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

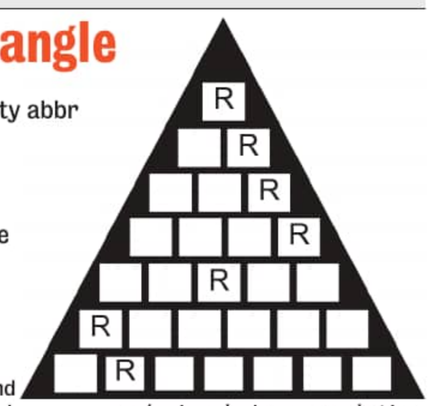
Differences: 1. Tie is missing. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Name on briefcase is lower. 4. Phone cord is different. 5. Leaf is added to plant. 6. Glasses are missing.

Riddler

I am a word of meanings three. Three ways of spelling me there be. The first is an odour, a smell if you will. The second some money, but not in a bill. The third is past tense, a method of passing things on or around. Can you tell me now, what these words are, that have the same sound?

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Augmented Reality abbr
3 Black substance
4 School reward
5 Links vehicles
6 Bigot
7 Extremely severe

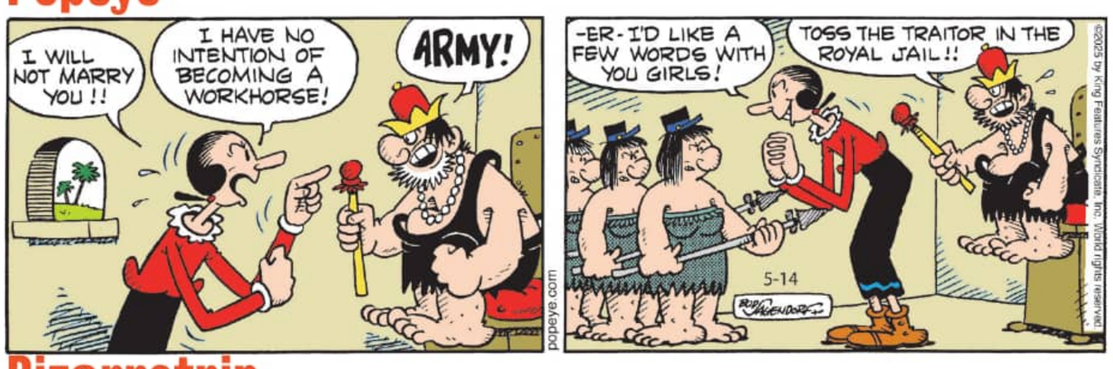


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



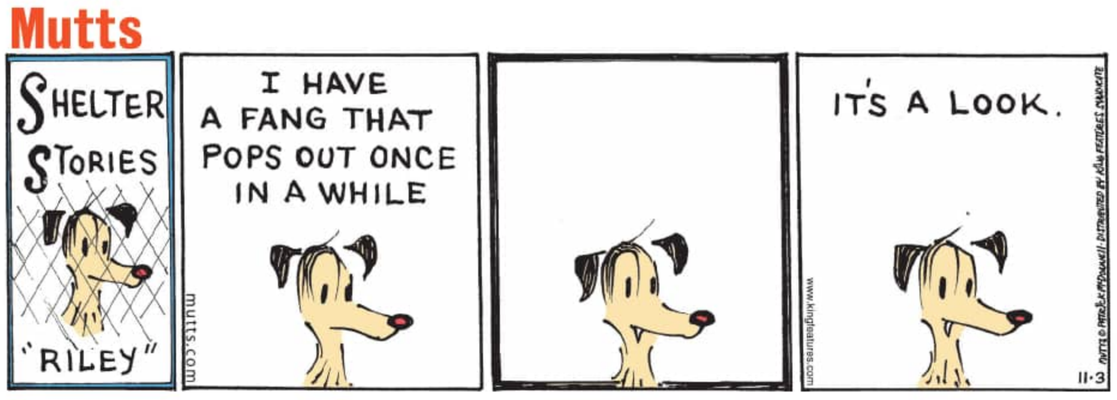
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Ambition and creativity blend perfectly in your professional life this year. Career accolades arrive after you take a calculated risk in June. Love thrives when you prioritise quality time over material gifts. Domestic life is peaceful, offering a solid base for your worldly pursuits. Travel for leisure rejuvenates your mind. Financial independence becomes a reality through consistent effort.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Focus on making important decisions regarding your home and partner today. By avoiding workplace conflicts and prioritising your household, you will create a nurturing environment that strengthens your most cherished.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your inner strength fuels brilliant, innovative ideas at work today. Channel this creative energy into revamping your home. Investing in gold or fixed assets will bring you extra good luck.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Prepare well for any big presentations to calm your nerves today. Focusing on quality time with your family and parents provides the emotional support you need to excel professionally.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Beautiful blessings from your elders ensure a cheerful day ahead. While singles should focus on their careers, couples can look forward to a lovely romantic evening together. Embrace a new challenge.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Use your natural patience to navigate workplace challenges and maintain your productivity. After a busy day, unwinding with friends through social activities will perfectly refresh your spirit and bring much respite.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your spiritual side shines as you help others today. Positive news from distant family brings happiness, and your parents fully support your choices. Students will find great joy.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Lean on the wisdom of your elders to resolve any temporary trust issues today. Spending quiet time in meditation will bring you peace, ensuring all your concerns dissipate by sunset.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

An influential person helps expand your professional network today, leading to great success. Past investments yield substantial gains, and your social life is filled with exciting, deep connections with friends.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Your confidence makes you a natural leader at work today. By staying focused on your long-term goals, you will find immense satisfaction while relaxing with your friends and family later.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Use your creativity to refresh your office or home today. As your investments grow, explore new hobbies with your partner to add excitement to your life. Success follows your inspiration.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Focus on building a strong foundation for your future family today. Practicing patience with your loved ones helps them understand your goals, creating a supportive environment for your long-term success.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Your enthusiastic focus at work catches your boss's eye, potentially leading to rewarding incentives. Any health issues resolve today, allowing you and your family to enjoy a very relaxed day.

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Anjali, Bengaluru

Shagun, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

=⁴√(I0DOUS | GABBLE | METRO | KEYPAD | TENANT)
=⁴√[(6^3)^2/3 + (3^4)^2/4 +(2^5)^4/5 + 2]
=⁴√[6^2+3^3+2^4 + 2]
=⁴√[636+27+16+2]
=⁴√81
=3^(4/4) = 3^1 = 3

STRIKE OUT

I	O	D	O	U	S		G	A	B	B	L	E		
N		U		S	E	A	L	S		E		M		
O		K		D	O	B	B	Y		C		T		
M	A	I	D	E	N		O	H	M	A	G	E		
S	E	E	D		R	Y	E		L	O	C	I		
T	A	R	O	T		A		I	O	N	I	C		
	G		W	I	N	N	I	N	G		D			
G	E	N	R	E		D		N	I	C	E	R		
A		P		Z	A	Y	I		B		C	A	R	E
D	R	A	Y		E	B	B		C	A	R	E		D
N	I	E	C	E	S		G	E	L	A	D	A		
S		R		T	E	N	O	N		L		C		
K	E	Y	P	A	D		T	E	N	A	N	T		

FAST FIVE

S	W	A	R	D
H	O	M	E	R
A	V	I	S	O
R	E	N	E	W
K	N	O	W	N

RIDDLER

Scent, cent and sent.

BULL'S EYE

COMPORT, coop, crop, poor, port, prom, romp, troop

QUICK

H		S		A		T		E						
L	A	C	T	I	C		G	R	I	E	V	E		
	L		A		U		E		P		A			
	D	O	E	R		F	U	N	W	O	R	L	D	
		L		E		F		T		F		U		
T	E	R	S	E	L	Y		O	F	F	A	L		
	N				E		G					T		
S	T	A	B	S		D	R	O	P	P	E	D		
	R		E		S		U		A					
B	Y	T	H	E	W	A	Y		Y	O	G	A		
	F		E		A		E		I		O			
L	E	T	S	U	P		R	A	N	K	L

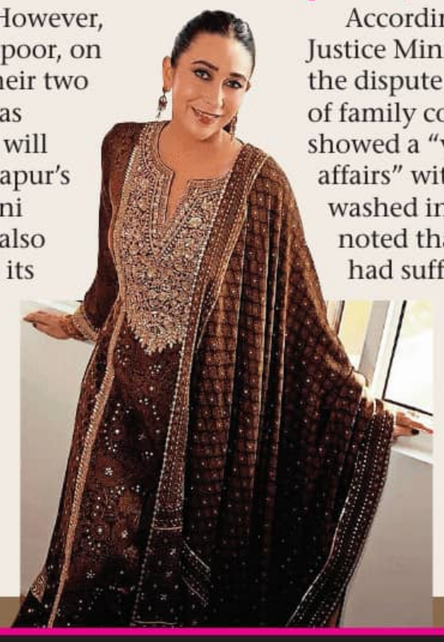
Kapur estate battle turns ugly

Delhi High Court calls for peaceful resolution

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday urged the parties locked in a legal battle over late businessman Sunjay Kapur's estate to consider resolving their dispute through mediation, observing that the matter reflected a "very sorry state of affairs" with "dirty linen being washed in public".

Bitter legal fight over Sunjay Kapur's will

Sunjay Kapur's estate is at the centre of a High Court dispute. His third wife, Priya Sachdev Kapur, has claimed he left his entire estate to her in a 2025 will. However, Karisma Kapoor, on behalf of their two children, has alleged the will is forged. Kapur's mother, Rani Kapur, has also questioned its authenticity and Priya's control of the estate, and has filed a separate suit.



'Dirty linen washed in public,' observes court

According to Bar and Bench, Justice Mini Pushkarna described the dispute as a grim reflection of family conflict, saying it showed a "very sorry state of affairs" with "dirty linen being washed in public". The court noted that while the parties had suffered a personal loss, they were also blessed with immense wealth, which should be shared properly and not become a source of bitterness.

Court appeals for empathy towards all parties

The court urged both sides to make efforts, noting that all parties were suffering. It observed that Rani Kapur, being elderly, had endured immense pain, while Priya Kapur too was facing hardship. The Bench stressed that Priya, now alone, must care for her children and that their well-being also needed consideration.

Court expects proactive role from Priya Kapur

Justice Pushkarna urged senior advocate Akhil Sibal, appearing for Priya Kapur, to take a more proactive role in resolving the dispute, saying that being at the helm, he could help make it happen.

Multi-crore trust under scrutiny

The remarks came during the hearing of Rani Kapur's suit seeking cancellation of the family trust, reportedly worth several thousand crores, and a direction to withhold an interim dividend of about 28 crore to Priya Kapur. The Bench also heard Priya's plea to reject the suit and issued notices in both applications.

–ETimes

Kylie's film moment

Kylie Jenner has revealed that she personally pitched herself for a role in Charli XCX's film The Moment, marking her big-screen acting debut, according to People.

The 28-year-old entrepreneur and reality star plays a fictionalised version of herself in the satire, inspired by the cultural frenzy surrounding Charli XCX's 2024 album Brat. The film is currently in cinemas.

In an Instagram video interview with Charli XCX, 33, and the film's director, Aidan Zamiri, Jenner explained how she became involved in the project.

"We were actually on a flight together, and you were telling me about this project," Jenner recalled. "And I believe in you, Zamiri, so much, and you, Charli, so much, and I presented the idea, I think." Charli quickly interjected, saying: "You were like, 'Put me in the film!'"

"That's basically what I said," Jenner admitted.

Director Aidan Zamiri said he remembered Jenner expressing her desire to step outside her comfort zone. Jenner noted that she had become familiar with Zamiri's work through his music videos for Charli and other artists, including Billie Eilish and PinkPantheress, according to People.

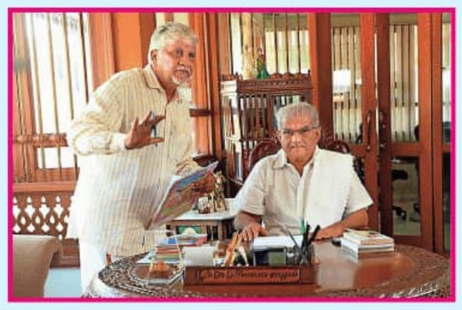
Jenner said she agreed to the film if she was wanted and joked she is "not really a bitch". Though nervous at first, she felt confident after the first take and prepared by practising with friends and family, as she plays herself in a brief role.

Charli XCX praised her performance, and The Moment is now in cinemas, according to People.

–ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Surprise cast member



The team behind the Kannada film Veera Kambala is delighted to have Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Dr D Veerendra Heggade as part of the cast. Dr Heggade is said to have played a key role in the film, which is set to release in cinemas on February 27.

Veera Kambala, directed by SV Rajendra Singh Babu, features Dr D Veerendra Heggade, whose efforts in popularising Tulunadu's buffalo race inspired his casting. His involvement was recently revealed, and he is believed to appear as an anchor explaining the sport's significance.

Backed by Baba's Blessing Films, the movie stars Prakash Raj and Ravishankar as advocates, with Radhika Chetan in a special appearance. Written by Vijay Koiyalbail with music by Manikanth Kadri, the film will release in Kannada and Tulu.

Premiere wins praise

After receiving a positive response and encouraging feedback from audiences, the team behind the Kannada film Marali Manasagide is over the moon. The team recently organised a paid premiere of the film in the city, and the majority of the audience appreciated its quality. The trailer, unveiled a few days ago, has also become popular among moviegoers. The film is scheduled for release on February 12.

Marali Manasagide, produced under the Benaka Talkies banner, stars Arjun Vedanta with Nireeksha Shetty and Smruthi Venkatesh, and is directed by Nagaraj Shankar. The film marks Arjun's return after a decade; he was last seen in Kudla Café (2016).

He said he was pleased with the response to the paid premieres and hopes audiences will watch it in cinemas on February 12. Producer Naveen Kumar RO also expressed happiness with the feedback and the film's quality.

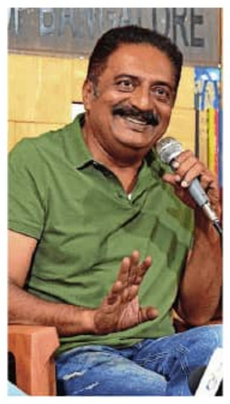
New entry confirmed

Akshaye Khanna reportedly walked out of Drishyam 3 due to remuneration issues and creative differences. Soon after, it was reported that Jaideep Ahlawat had replaced the actor; however, director Abhishek Pathak clarified that Ahlawat would be playing a new character. Later, reports surfaced online suggesting that Prakash Raj had been brought on board for the film. The actor has now confirmed the same. Here's a look at his social media post.

Prakash Raj confirms shooting for Drishyam 3

Addressing the rumours surrounding the Ajay Devgn-led film, the actor shared: "Started shooting for this engaging franchise #Drishyam3 in Hindi. With a wonderful team and a scintillating role to play. I'm sure you will love it. "

He added the final line to clarify matters before rumours of him replacing Akshaye Khanna surfaced online.



More about Akshaye Khanna's exit from Drishyam 3

Akshaye Khanna reportedly demanded 21 crore for Drishyam 3. Though the makers tried to negotiate, he allegedly stopped responding. He also wanted to wear a wig, which the team did not approve as he had not done so earlier. While some reports linked his exit to Dhurandhar's success, producer Kumar Mangat Pathak said Khanna left the project a day before its release.

More about Drishyam 3

Drishyam 3 has generated strong buzz following Akshaye Khanna's exit. Starring Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Shriya Saran and Rajat Kapoor, it releases on October 2, 2026.–ETimes